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Let's Get Code Ready!

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Purpose

Codes happen infrequently at Mariners Hospital. Therefore, Registered Nurses (RN's) may have not had the experience to feel comfortable managing the crash cart. The ICU Unit Practice Council identified the need to determine proficiency in the use of emergency crash cart supplies by the RN's at Mariners Hospital.

Background

- ❖ Purpose of a crash cart:
 - ❖ Codes!
 - ❖ Reducing delays and errors
 - ❖ Rapid access of supplies
 - ❖ Improved outcomes
- ❖ Challenges of crash cart during a code:
 - ❖ Lack of knowledge of contents
 - ❖ Inaccurate selection of supplies
 - ❖ Stress of the situation
 - ❖ Second-guessing oneself = time wasted

Goals

- ❖ To increase RN confidence during codes
- ❖ To improve accuracy and speed of collection of supplies from within the crash cart during code situations

Methods

- ❖ Data collection (before intervention)
 - ❖ Scavenger hunt - timed
 - ❖ Survey
- ❖ Supplies list
- ❖ Visual aid poster- 3-month display
- ❖ Staff education
 - ❖ All bedside RN's at staff meetings
- ❖ Data collection (after intervention)
 - ❖ Scavenger hunt - timed
 - ❖ Survey – same questions

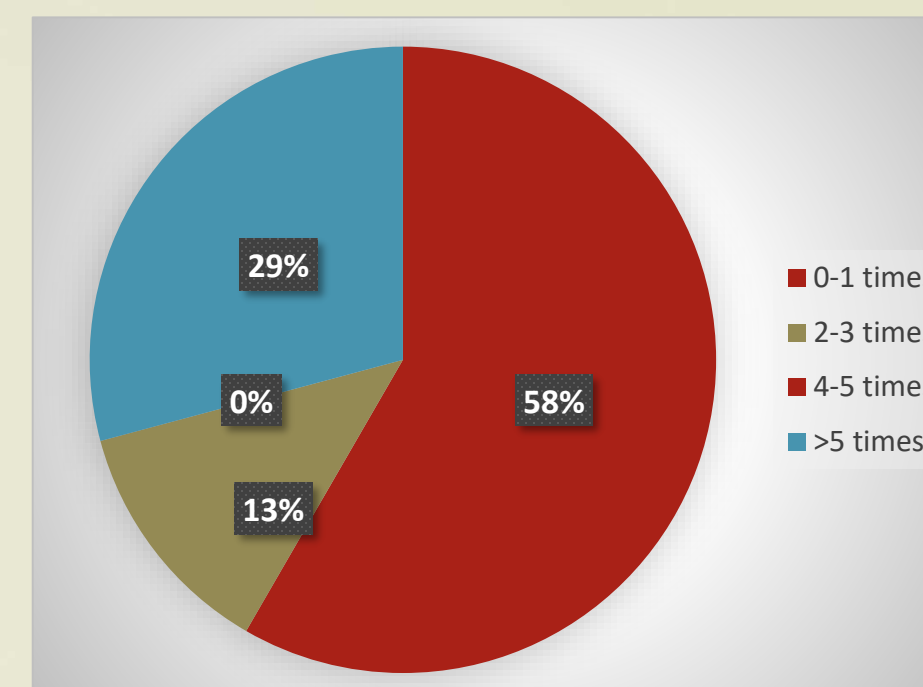


Visual Aid

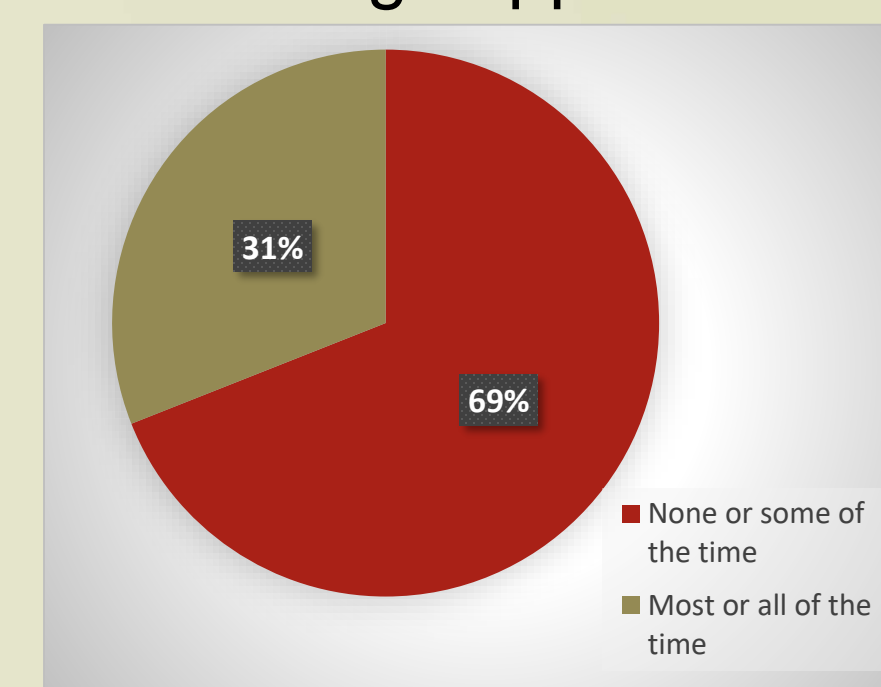


Survey Results

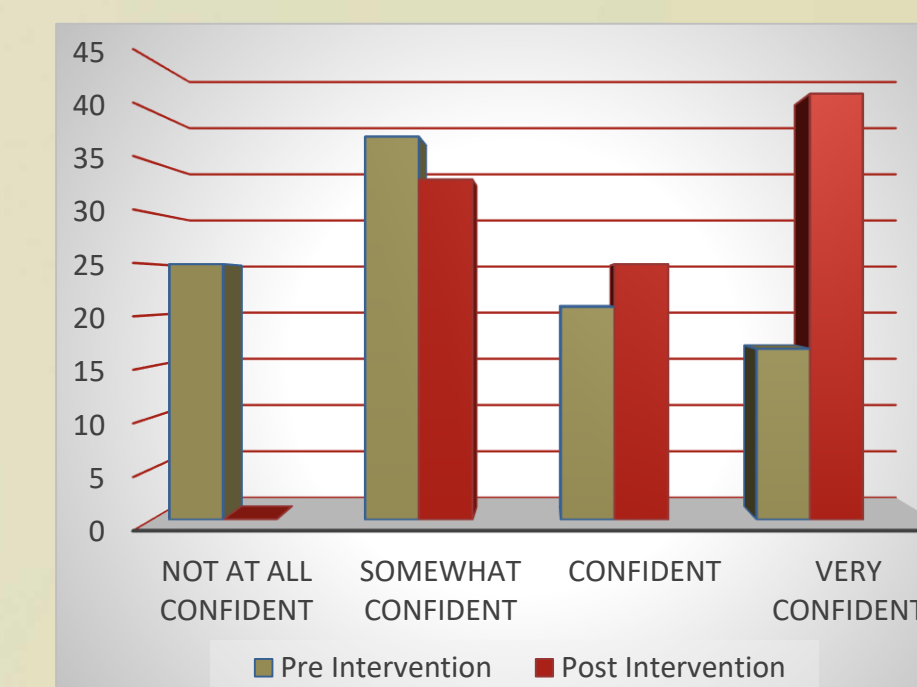
In the past year, how many times have you participated in a code blue/rescue?



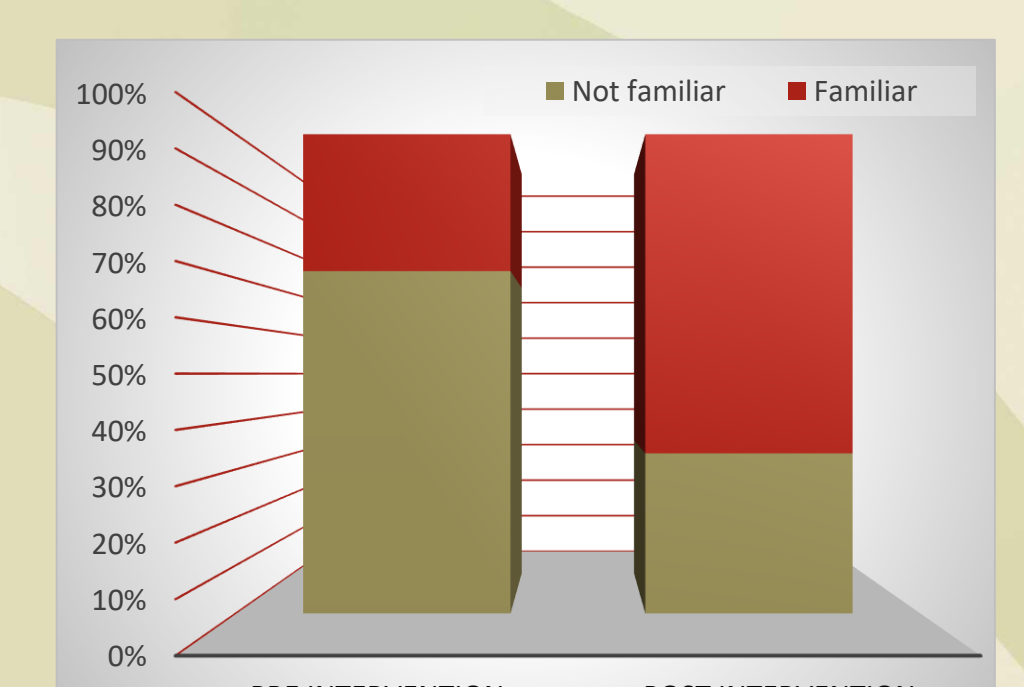
Of the times you participated in a code, how many times did you utilize the crash cart for obtaining supplies?



Rate your confidence in efficiently locating items within the crash cart during a code:



How familiar are you with the contents of the crash cart?

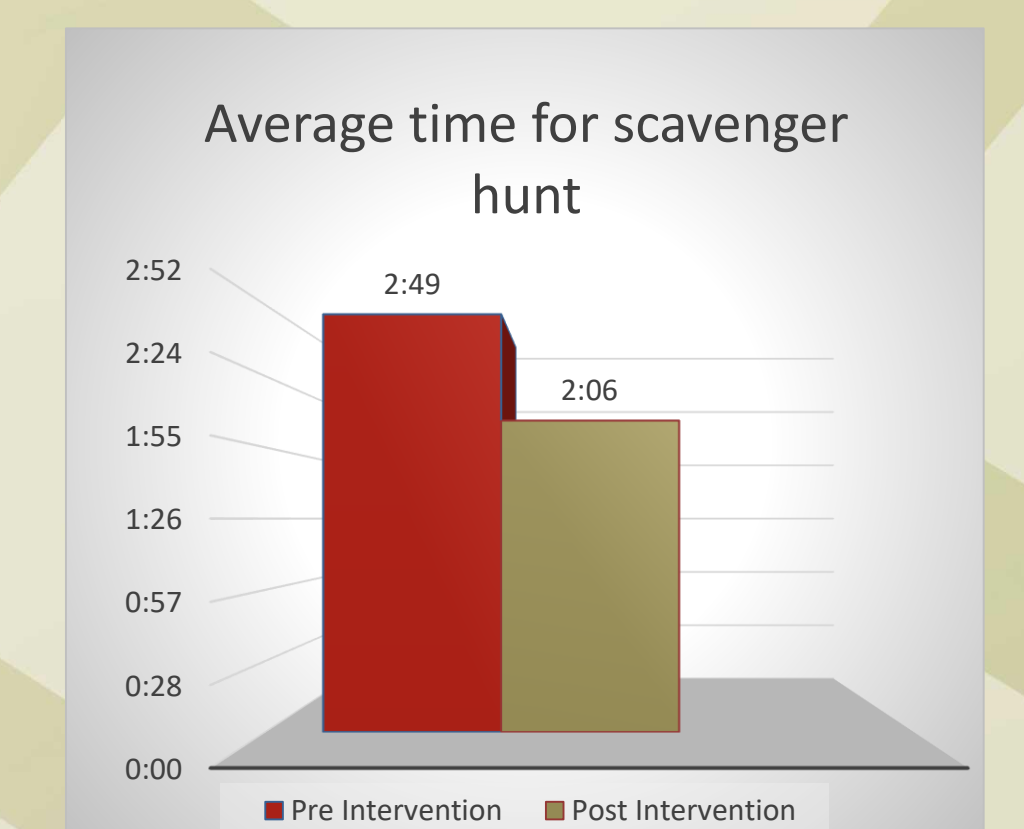


Scavenger Hunt

Time reduced by 43 seconds!

Interventions that can be accomplished with 43 extra seconds:

- ❖ Start an IV
- ❖ Administer a med
- ❖ Intubation
- ❖ Dress a wound
- ❖ Save a life!



Outcomes

- ❖ The scavenger hunt demonstrated decreased time to locate supplies from within the crash cart.
- ❖ The survey results showed increased RN confidence and familiarity locating supplies.

Recommendations

- ❖ Expanding crash cart visual aid poster for pediatric crash cart
- ❖ Regular scavenger hunts with all RN's at mock codes or annual education

References

- ❖ AHC Media LLC (2010). Are you ready for an emergency? Don't get caught unprepared. Same-Day Surgery, 34(9) 97-108.
- ❖ Arak, S., Pasadyn, J. & Weekley, L. (2015). Standardizing adult crash carts. Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing, 30(4) C6.
- ❖ Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority (2010). Clinical Emergency: Are you ready in any setting? PA Patient Saf Advis, 7, 52-60.